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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

In re application of

Docket No: Q64574

Hirobumi AOKI, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/869,142

Group Art Unit: 1652

Confirmation No.: 1209

Examiner: Christian L. Fronda

Filed: June 26, 2001

For: NOVEL RHODOCOCCLUS BACTERIUM, NITRILASE GENE, NITRYL HYDRATASE GENE AND AMIDASE GENE FROM RHODOCOCCLUS BACTERIUM, AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING CARBOXYLIC ACIDS USING THEM

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 31, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

8. (Amended) A mutant microorganism having the activity of converting a cyano group into a carboxyl group and being defective or reduced in the activity of converting a cyano group into an amide group.

9. (Amended) The mutant microorganism as claimed in claim 8, wherein said microorganism is a mutant strain of a microorganism belonging to the genus *Rhodococcus*.

10 (Amended) The mutant microorganism as claimed in claim 9, which is a mutant strain of *Rhodococcus* sp. ATCC39484.